

A young girl with braids is smiling joyfully during a baptism ceremony. She is being held in a white baptismal font by a man whose hands are visible on her shoulders. The background is a blurred church interior with other people.

Baptism Parent Guide



This guide is designed to help you talk with your child about baptism.

We are grateful you are taking the time to walk through this conversation together. Moments like this matter more than we often realize. Long before baptism day arrives, God is already at work in quiet and meaningful ways in the hearts of our kids and students. Our hope is simple. We want to help you have an unhurried, honest conversation about what it means to trust and follow Jesus.

As you begin, move slowly and listen carefully. This is not a test your child needs to pass. You are not looking for perfect theology or polished language. You are listening for personal trust in Jesus, growing understanding, and a genuine desire to follow Him. Keep the tone calm

and pressure-free, and allow space for your child to respond in their own words. The sections that follow can be read aloud or paraphrased in a way that fits your family.

If your child is not quite ready, that is okay. There is no rush, and questions are often one of the ways God deepens faith over time. Thank you for the many quiet ways you are helping your child learn the way of Jesus. It is sacred work, and we are grateful to partner with your family. If at any point you feel unsure about readiness, our team would be honored to walk with you.

As you have this conversation, prayerfully consider what you are hearing.

1. Look For Understanding

Children are concrete thinkers. It is tempting even for adults to think that baptism is God's means of communicating saving grace and salvation rather than trusting in Christ's work on the cross. We want to make sure that anyone being baptized is clear that it is by grace alone in Christ alone that we are rescued and saved from our sin.

- **Does your child clearly understand the gospel and the purpose of baptism?**
- **Would your child be tempted to think that their participation in baptism contributes to their salvation?**

2. Look for Evidence

Children may demonstrate awareness of their sin or interest in spiritual things. However, we believe that pursuing baptism without evidence of conviction, revelation, and regeneration can be dangerous and misleading to their apprenticeship in Jesus.

- **Does your child have interest in pursuing a relationship with God?**
- **Does your child demonstrate evidence of the fruit of the Spirit?**
- **What is their motivation for being baptized?**

3. Look for Maturity and Independent Thinking

It is not uncommon for those who were baptized during their pre-teen years to feel a need to be "re-baptized" when they are older. We want to make sure that any child baptized is able to embrace the decisions and commitments that they make on their own and that it is a meaningful milestone for the remainder of their life.

- **Is your child old enough that this will be a significant event for them?**
- **Will they be able to recall the reasoning behind their decision?**



Parent Discussion Guide With Children

Beginning to Think About Baptism

Baptism is not an act that saves you. Being baptized is not what sends you to heaven. Baptism is a symbol, a picture of how Jesus' blood has made us clean from our sins.

When you are baptized, you are telling others that you have chosen to follow Christ, and are obeying his command to be baptized. When you are baptized you are telling others that you have accepted Jesus as your Savior, who has rescued you from your sin.

Not everyone makes this decision, and not everyone will believe the same way you do. Choosing to follow Christ means no longer living for yourself, but living for Christ. Others should see Christ in you as you grow to be more and more like him.

Read and Discuss Together

Read Romans 3:23-25: What is man's problem?

Read John 3:16: What did Jesus do?

Read John 14:6: What does Jesus say about himself?

Read 1 John 1:9, Romans 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:8-9: What can we do about our sin?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, Matthew 16:24-26: What does it mean to be a new creation?

Read Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:38 : Why do we get baptized?

Read Matthew 3:16-17. Did you know Jesus was baptized? Have you ever seen someone be baptized? Describe what you saw.

Personal Relection

When did you make the decision to follow Jesus?

What does it mean that Jesus is our savior?

What does it mean to be a sinner?

What is an important Bible verse to you that lets you know what Jesus has done for you?

Signs of readiness

- Personal trust in Jesus
- Understanding of grace (even in simple terms)
- Desire to follow Jesus
- Willingness to publicly identify with Him
- Ability to express faith in their own words

Signs to slow down

- Primarily motivated by peers
- Cannot yet articulate personal faith
- Thinks baptism is what saves them
- Shows significant hesitation or confusion
- There is no rush. Faith formation takes time!

Next Steps

If your child seems ready:

- Complete the Baptism Registration at thejourney.org/baptism
- Read the Baptism Participant Guide so you know what to expect at thejourney.org/baptism
- A pastor or elder will follow up with you

**Becoming apprentices of Jesus by
being with,
being transformed by,
and partnering with
Him.**

